

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PRS-01 SCCT-01 COME-00 SS-15

USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 SAM-01

NSC-05 SY-04 DODE-00 TRSE-00 /059 W

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R 291320Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 16

S E C R E T JIDDA 660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SA, US

SUBJECT: KING FAISAL AND THE JEWS

REF STATE 282200

1. KING FAISAL'S BRIEFING FOR THE "TIME" NEWS GROUP ON JAN 28 WAS MORE MODERATE AND FORTHCOMING THAN WE HAVE EVER HEARD. THERE WERE NO ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS, ONLY REFERENCES TO "AGE-OLD ARAB-JEWISH FRIENDSHIP," TO THE FACT THAT THE JEWS FLED FROM CHRISTIAN SPAIN INTO ARAB NORTH AFRICA, NOT TO CHRISTIAN EUROPE, AND THAT ALL THE CURRENT PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES ROSE FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ZIONISM.

2. ON THE SUBJECT OF ISRAEL, THE KING SAID THAT IF ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW TO ITS 1967 BORDERS AND RESTORE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, THEN ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA COULD LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY; THEY COULD THEN DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILDING UP THEIR OWN ECONOMIES.

3. THE "TIME" BUSINESSMEN WERE IMPRESSED; THEY FOUND FAISAL FAR MORE REASONABLE THAN THEY HAD EXPECTED AND SAID THEY WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT HE DID NOT REPEAT THE USUAL CLICHES THEY

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HAD HEARD FROM BOTH THE ARAB AND ISRAELI SIDES.

4. THIS POSITIVE EFFECT WAS SERIOUSLY COMPROMISED IF NOT TOTALLY DESTROYED BY ROYAL PROTOCOL. IT PRESENTED EACH MEMBER OF THE "TIME" GROUP WITH A HANDSOME SAMSONITE ATTACHE CASE FILLED WITH PROMOTIONAL PAMPHLETS. ALL OF THEM WERE WELL-PRODUCED, WELL-ILLUSTRATED BUT BLAND PAMPHLETS OF THE TOURIST GENRE. ALL BUT ONE, THAT IS, FOR TUCKED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PILE WAS "THE PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION" - IN FRENCH. ROYAL PROTOCOL INSISTS IT WAS PUT IN BY MISTAKE BY A CLERK WHO WAS TOLD TO FILL THE BRIEFCASES WITH "READING MATERIAL ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA."

5. COMMENT: SO MUCH FOR THE NEW SAUDI, NON-RACIST IMAGE. THE ONLY BRIGHT SIDE WILL PROBABLY BE THAT THE DIWAN WILL DESTROY THE STACKS OF THE "PROTOCOL," WHICH HAVE BEEN MOLDERING IN ITS RIYADH OFFICE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.  
AKINS

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